## OPEN LETTER TO THE RESIDENTS WE SERVE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER May 29, 2019

As women appointees and staff who serve or have served in Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock's office, we can no longer stand by as our City, our workplace, our values, our characters and our Mayor are attacked and politicized.

We stand together to make one fact very clear- we work in a culture of respect and support. Gender equity is a hallmark of this administration and the Mayor's office staff reflects that priority. We acknowledge that the text messages sent by the Mayor 7 years ago were inappropriate, something the Mayor has admitted to and repeatedly apologized for. We now have more robust workplace policies that hold elected officials accountable as a result.

However, the rampant mischaracterization of our workplace by the Mayor's opponent is insulting to the highly skilled, experienced and qualified professional women who have chosen careers in public service in collaboration with and under the leadership of Mayor Hancock.

Our contributions, from the administrative to the executive levels of city government, are valued and bring meaningful results for <u>all</u> the people of Denver. Our shared vision and passion for a progressive and inclusive city are reflected in every single decision we make as a team. And we <u>are</u> a team, made up of independent thinkers with different points of view, working diligently with one goal- acting in the best interests of the people of Denver.

It is disappointing to see a legitimate and damaging issue like sexual harassment, an issue so many of us have faced at different points in our lives, being wielded in such a cavalier and irresponsible way by the Mayor's opponent.

No workplace – to say nothing of one that employs some 14,000 people – is without conflict. But harassment of any kind is simply not tolerated at the Mayor's office or at the City and County of Denver.

We are proud to serve alongside Mayor Hancock, a husband and father who has devoted his life to public service and achieving equity for every person who calls Denver home.

Sincerely,

Theresa Marchetta Erin Brown LaTonya Lacy Julia Gayles Lisa Carpenter Gabrielle Bryant Gaby Corica Rowena Alegria

Kim Day

Jordan Sauers

Gloria Neal

Ramonna Robinson

Stacey Stegman

Cristal Torres DeHerrera

**Rosalind Alston** 

Stephanie O'Malley

**Grace Ramirez** 

Romaine Pacheco

**Emily Hauber** 

Skye Stuart

Stacie Loucks

Katy Strascina

Happy Haynes

Tess Trewin

Mary Crosswright

Cesi Gomez

Valerie Sanchez

Karla Pierce